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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0462

INFO RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 3773

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 6513

RUFHMJ/AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE 3794

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 07843

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PREL, RO, US (CALCIU-DUMITREASA, GHEORGHE)

SUBJECT: MFA'S CONSULAR AND PROTOCOL DIRECTORS' CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 15

REF: BUCHAREST 07840

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ON DECEMBER 15 (SATURDAY) SHORTLY AFTER THE RETURN TO BUCHAREST OF UNOFFICIAL CODEL SILJANDER, AN EMBASSY OFFICER AT THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST, TELEPHONE THE MFA'S NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS OFFICER MIRCEA RACEANU, AND REQUESTED THAT THE MINISTRY ARRANGE A CALL BY CONGRESSMAN SILJANDER ON FR. CALCIU.

3. IN MID-AFTERNOON THE MFA'S DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR OPERATIONS, GHEORGHE BADESCU, AND THE DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, PETRE SANDULESCU, SUMMONED THE AMBASSADOR TO THE MINISTRY. AS THE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT THEN AVAILABLE THE MEETING DID NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 1700. HE HAD BEEN RUG SHOPPING WITH CONGRESSMAN SILJANDER AND HAD CONGRESSMAN WITH HIM WHEN HE RECEIVED THE SUMMONS. HENCE, HE BROUGHT THE CONGRESSMAN WITH HIM TO THE MINISTRY. BADESCU AND SANDULESCU DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF CONGRESSMAN SILJANDER'S REQUEST TO CALL ON FR. CALCIU IN THE CONGRESSMAN'S PRESENCE AND ASKED HIM TO LEAVE. (THE CONGRESSMAN WAITED ON A BENCH IN THE HALLWAY DURING THE MEETING.)

4. BADESCU TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON HE HAD STATED TO THE DCM THE GOR'S POSITION ON REQUESTS TO SEE FR. CALCIU, BUT IN CASE THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT UNDERSTAND HE WOULD REPEAT IT. "WE ARE SURPRISED" HE SAID, "THAT U.S. DIPLOMATS ARE INTERFERRING WITH A ROMANIAN CITIZEN, ESPECIALLY A FASCIST AND FORMER CRIMINAL...THE U.S. DIPLOMATS AND THE U.S. EMBASSY VIOLATED THE VIENNA CONVENTION, ACCORDING TO WHICH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS SHOULD ONLY BE CONCERNED WITH THE CITIZENS OF THEIR OWN STATES AND NOT THE INTERNAL

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AFFAIRS OF OTHERS." HE STRESSED THAT ROMANIA IS A SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT STATE AND "ALL THAT PERTAINS TO THE CITIZENS OF ROMANIA ARE AN INTERNAL AFFAIR... TO BE SOLVED WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE." BADESCU ASKED WHY THE U.S. EMBASSY ACCORDS SO MUCH ATTENTION TO ONE SINGLE MAN WHEN THERE ARE OVER 1,500 OUTSTANDING REQUESTS FOR EMIGRATION. "WHY DO U.S. DIPLOMATS GO TO ROMANIAN CITIZENS AND HAND THEM APPLICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION?" HE RE-EMPHASIZED THAT IF A ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT IN WASHINGTON D.C. ACTED IN A SIMILAR MANNER, WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO BE DECLARED "PERSONA NON GRATA." SANDULESCU ADDED THAT THE DECEMBER 11 ACTIONS OF THE U.S. DIPLOMATS WERE CONTRARY TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION.

5. BADESCU TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE KNEW HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD ALREADY LEFT ROMANIA, AND HE REITERATED THAT EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA WAS EXCLUSIVELY THE PROBLEM OF THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE NORMAL PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IF ONE WANTED TO EMIGRATE. HE SAID THAT UNTIL THAT MOMENT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY REQUEST BY CALCIU OR HIS FAMILY CONCERNING EMIGRATION. DESPITE THE NORMAL PROCEDURES THAT EXIST, HE SAID, U.S. DIPLOMATS ON DECEMBER 11 HANDED THE CALCIUS VISA APPLICATIONS AND, THUS, INTERFERRED IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA.

6. SANDULESCU ADDED THAT THE U.S. DIPLOMATS SHOULD HAVE ASKED PERMISSION FROM THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES BEFORE THEY ATTEMPTED TO VISIT CALCIU. HE REPEATED THAT ROMANIA IS AN INDEPENDENT STATE AND THAT FOREIGN DIPLOMATS SHOULD BEHAVE APPROPRIATELY. "THE DECEMBER 11 ACTION IS CONSIDERED BY ROMANIA TO BE A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS AND ROMANIAN LAWS. NOW, YOU ASK US AGAIN? THAT IS SURPRISING TO US. PERHAPS AGAIN YOU HAVE NOT UNDERSTOOD US?" HE STRESSED THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS "SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS." HE ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO COOPERATE WITH THE EMBASSY IN ORDER TO DEVELOP BILATERAL RELATIONS AND TO HELP ROMANIAN DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON AND U.S. DIPLOMATS IN BUCHAREST FULFILL THEIR TASKS.

7. AMBASSADOR FUNDERBURK INQUIRED WHETHER AN OFFICIAL OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD VISIT CALCIU AND WHETHER A CONGRESSMAN OR TOURIST COULD VISIT CALCIU. HE ALSO ASKED WHAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA INTENDED TO

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DO ABOUT CALCIU'S STATED DESIRE TO LEAVE ROMANIA.

8. BADESCU STATED U.S. DIPLOMATS HAVE TO OBEY ROMANIAN REGULATIONS AND ASKED WHY DOES THE CONGRESSMAN WANT TO VISIT CALCIU WHEN THERE ARE 1,500 PERSONS WAITING TO EMIGRATE. BADESCU AGAIN SIDETRACKED THE CONVERSATION SAYING CALCIU WAS CONDEMNED BEFORE 1944 AND THAT HE IS A FASCIST... "DON'T PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM, WHY NOT INFORM THEM ABOUT THE TRUTH... WE KNOW BEST WHAT ROMANIAN CITIZENS DID... U.S. DIPLOMATS SHOULD NOT CONTACT CALCIU." IN RESPONSE TO THE SECOND QUESTION BADESCU SAID A TOURIST IS A TOURIST AND SHOULD CONCERN HIMSELF WITH THE PRETTY THINGS IN ROMANIA. SANDULESCU THEN ASKED IF THE CONGRESSMAN WANTED TO SEE CALCIU, WHY DIDN'T HE MAKE

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THAT CLEAR WHEN HE APPLIED FOR A VISA AT THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON? HE SAID "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT HE (CALCIU) HAS NOT MADE A DECLARATION TO EMIGRATE AND THAT THE U.S. DIPLOMATS WENT TO CALCIU BEFORE HE APPLIED FOR EMIGRATION, IT APPEARS TO ME THAT ALL THAT HAS GONE ON IS 'INSTIGATION'." BADESCU ADDED THAT THE EMIGRATION PROCEDURE IS WELL KNOWN AND THE GOR RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE FOLLOWED. "BOTH ROMANIA AND THE U.S. HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE SUCH CASES, BUT CALCIU'S EMIGRATION PROCESS HAS NOT BEEN INITIATED AND FOR THE U.S. DIPLOMATS TO HAVE GIVEN HIM THE FORMS BEFORE HE HAS APPROVAL FROM THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES IS CONSIDERED "INSTIGATION." THE CONGRESSMAN, HE SAID, SHOULD ACT CORRECTLY WHILE IN ROMANIA AND ENJOY HIS VISIT. "HE AND THE U.S. DIPLOMATS HAVE TO OBEY THE NORMAL LAWS." SANDULESCU ADDED THAT IN ANY CASE IT IS NOT THE BUSINESS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOREIGN VISITORS, "TOURISTS," TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH CALCIU. "IT IS NOT GOOD TO CONTACT CALCIU. TO DO OTHERWISE IS INSTIGATION. TRIFA AND CALCIU ARE SIMILAR CASES."

9. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THE GOR'S POSITION AS STATED TO THE DCM, AND APPRECIATED GOR'S RIGHT AS A SOVEREIGN NATION TO HANDLE ITS OWN AFFAIRS. AT THE SAME TIME, AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT FATHER CALCIU'S PLIGHT AND EXPRESSED DESIRE TO EMIGRATE WERE OF INTEREST TO AMERICANS, BOTH PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL. IF HE WAS NOT IN JAIL OR UNDER ARREST WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS HUMAN RIGHT TO CONTACT OTHER PEOPLE AND TO EMIGRATE. HE ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS IN 1984, WERE THE CALCIU CASE TO BECOME A CAUSE CELEBRE IT COULD DO DAMAGE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS. THUS, HE SAID, BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAD AN INTEREST IN SOLVING THE CASE EXPEDITIOUSLY.

10. FOLLOWING THIS CONVERSATION THE AMBASSADOR ADVISED CONGRESSMAN SILJANDER AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY NOT TO TRY TO CALL ON FR. CALCIU, AS IT WOULD PROBABLY ONLY HURT HIS CHANCES TO EMIGRATE.

11. THE EVENING BEFORE, AFTER DISCUSSING THE DCM'S MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO MFA OFFICIALS, THE AMBASSADOR DECIDED THAT FOR THE MOMENT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER ATTEMPT BY EMBASSY OFFICERS TO CALL ON THE CALCIUS. FUNDERBURK

END OF MESSAGE

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